

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) An Escherichia coli strain Top10/pXK99EdeaD deposited as DSM 14464.

13-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 259 to 2130 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

35. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 that encodes a polypeptide having the ~~enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase~~ amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of the

complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1.

38. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of any of claims 5, 9, 34, 35 or 37.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a DNA fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a DNA fragment of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides.

43. (Currently amended) A vector encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which consists of the ~~vector~~ nucleic acid molecule which encodes the vector and the polynucleotide of claim 40 or 42.

44. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 43, wherein said vector is pXK99EdeaD deposited in Escherichia coli Top/pXK99EdeaD under DSM 14464.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid primer or probe consisting of a DNA fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement over the full-length of the fragment of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid primer or probe consisting of a DNA fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement over the full-length of the fragment of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 40 consecutive nucleotides.

49-50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously presented) A recombinant host cell of the genus *Corynebacterium* or of the species *Escherichia coli* comprising the vector of claim 43.

52. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 51, wherein said host cell is of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

53. (Previously presented) A vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide, wherein said isolated polynucleotide consists of the isolated polynucleotide of claim 35.

54. (Previously presented) A bacterium of the species *Escherichia coli* comprising a vector which includes an isolated polynucleotide, wherein said isolated polynucleotide consists of the isolated polynucleotide of claim 35.

55. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) A method for ~~producing a protein~~ the fermentative preparation of L-amino acids which comprises

cultivating a recombinant host cell of the genus *Corynebacterium* or of the species *Escherichia coli* containing a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

- (a) an isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement;
- (b) an isolated polynucleotide sequence, or its complement, which encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (c) an isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 259 to 2130 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement;
- (d) an isolated polynucleotide consisting of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID

- NO: 1 or its complement;
- (e) an isolated polynucleotide consisting of at least 40 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement;
- (d) an isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 that encodes a polypeptide having the ~~enzymatic activity of a DNA/RNA helicase~~ amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- inducing expression of the nucleic acid sequence.

56. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the host cell is of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.